HARRIS, D G c Jewellers, Hamilton February 1919 (084)

ESTABLISHED 1900

PHONE 2350

B. HARRIS
JEWELER

MILITARY BADGES
SOUVENIRS
WAR RIBBONS

88 JAMES STREET NORTH
Hamilton,
CANADA

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ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOL OF HOROLOGY

(1) All jewelers and watch-repairers will admit that the present apprentice system has long passed its stage of usefulness. It is unfair to the student, and hard on his master. We need another system of instruction.

(2) Canada requires at least 100 additional horologists a year. As the country grows the number will be of course greater. Do we want foreign born horologists?-Or do you prefer Canadians?

(3) Horology should, to my mind, properly be regarded as a profession. By horology I do not mean "watch-tinkering" but a thorough knowledge and understanding of horology in all its branches. Any man should be proud of the title "Master-Horologist". Where are we to get these "horologists" ? The younger generation are not eager to become "watch-repairers". Can we blame them? Certainly not. Let us view it from two view-points. (a) As a trade it offers no inducements to the young man. He can get an easier job, with better pay, shorter hours, and (note this) much more easily learnt. (b) From a professional standpoint there is absolutely no inducement for the youth. There is no professional college; no place where he may get a thorough training in the principles and practices of horology. The apprentice system of four years in sweeping floors, delivering clocks, and doing 'odd jobs' does not appeal to him. In four years time he wants a profession. He cannot avail himself of a privately owned school where tuition alone is about $200 a year. For a tuition fee of $50 yearly, he can avail himself of the latest ideas and equipment in studying medicine, law dentistry, forestry, or the like. Not as it is to-day there is nothing in it.

I believe that this plan is building for the future. There will doubtless be opposition to it.-But what we want is "the greatest good for the greatest number". This is my proposition:

The School shall be a part of the University of Toronto.
It shall be Governmentally financed and controlled.
It shall have equal standing with other schools of the same character e.g., College of Dental Surgeons, School of Pharmacy.
Admission shall be by Matriculation examination.
The length of the course shall be 4 years.
A year shall be 9 months: The Michaelmas term from Oct. 1 to Dec. 1, the Easter term from Jan. 1 to May 30.
There shall be special 2 months courses in the summer. The first from June 1 to July 30, the second from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30.

(continued)

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Admittion to the special courses shall be left to the discretion of the Faculty; but the student must have served under the apprentice system and show aptness and ability.
The fee(tuition) shall be $40 for the 7 month-4 year course.
The fee for each of the summer courses shall be $10.
A student having already taken up a part of one course may transfer to the other(with the approval of the Fcult.) and the work already completed shall be accepted "pro tanto".
During the one month at Christmas (December) the student shall serve in a retail establishment, preferably as a salesman.
It is recommended that the student serve during three months in the summer in some establishment where he shall get practical under working conditions.
The examinations shall be the same as held in the University of Toronto. The examinations shall be partly written, partly oral, partly practical.
The succesful student shall at the end of the four year course, be awarded a certificate.
The object of the short term-smonth-course shall be to further instruct students who learned under the apprentice system. Individual instruction shall be necessary as some will be far beyond others.
The term HOROLOGY shall be applicable only to those who have been awarded the certificate.

This briefly is something of what I think should be done. It is only a rough sketch. Of course, there are many changes which will be necessary.

Special provision could, I think, be arranged for returned soldiers.

The advantage of this University course, is that many mechanically students who would not think of becoming apprentices would take up this course. I would estimate that about 50 would be the average early enrollment after the School had been started. This would allow 50 who would enter upon "watch-repairing" as a trade, and learn under the apprenticeship system. Those non who would regard it as a trade would gradually become smaller in numbers; and of course thenumber attending the School would increase.

The University course would lead to re-awakened interest in watch-making. We would have a class of men who would be able to plan improvements for watches and clocks. I do not think that the watch or clock has yet reached perfection. Besides this it would be an excellent course for a man aspiring to the study of Astronomy or other related subjects.

The problem of equipment is solved. It would be provided by th University.

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Most educationalistsagree that learning should be under State control. The day of the privately owned school is rapidly passing.- And there is not much money in it for the owners,either. Under State control there would be little danger of Canada being left without a SCHOOL OF HOROLOGY for the training of her horologists.

The total course of actual school training would be 2½ months; the total tuition cost to the student $130. Under the private school plan the length of the course will be 18 to 24 months and the cost of tuition $50 to $60. and the student would be earning under the first plan year by year as his course progressed (during the 3 months in the summer and in December).

There should be no difficulty in the procuring of work for a government owned institution . In fact the difficulty would be lessened instead of increased. As well, all the government's scientific instruments would be at the School's disposal.

In conclusion I ask your earnest consideration of this proposition I would be glad to know of any objections advanced and whether you consider it "the greatest good for the greatest number".

I sincerely hope that (under some form) the Canadian jewelers and watch repairers will soon see, permanently established, a CANADIAN SCHOOL OF HOROLOGY.

D. G. Harris

February 12th, 1919

D. C. Harris, Esq.,

82 James Street North,

Hamilton.

My dear Sir:

The University cannot undertake to provide technical instruction in each of the separate departments of manufacture. We must on the whole confine ourselves to teaching the application of science to industry and allow the individual to get his instruction in his own art or trade in some school that is especially set aside for the purpose. If we were to enter upon such detailed instruction it would soon be impossible for us to meet the demands and we should get away from our primary purposes.

Yours sincerely,

President.